

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A nut assembly for use on a wrench having a handle, a shank, and a jaw, the nut assembly comprising:

a nut having threads for matingly engaging the shank of the wrench and grooves for allowing the shank of the wrench to slide freely therethrough said nut; and

a spring surrounding said nut, said spring for biasing said nut to a position where the shank of the wrench is locked in place.

2. The nut assembly according to claim 1 wherein said nut comprises at least two grooves located 180 degrees apart.

3. The nut assembly according to claim 1 wherein said spring terminates on the handle of the wrench proximate to said nut.

4. The nut assembly according to claim 1 further including a set of stop pins located on the exterior of said nut which provide positive stopping mechanism of the nut.

5. The nut assembly according to claim 4 wherein said nut comprises at least two stop pins are located 180 degrees apart.

6. An adjustable pipe wrench comprising:

a handle having a fixed jaw portion on one end;

a shank having an adjustable jaw portion opposite said fixed jaw portion; and

a nut assembly, wherein said nut assembly comprises:

a nut having threads for matingly engaging said shank and grooves for allowing said shank to slide freely therethrough said nut; and

a spring surrounding said nut, said spring for biasing said nut to a position where said shank is locked in place.

7. A locking assembly for use on a wrench having a handle, a shank, and a jaw, the locking assembly comprising:

a housing;

a sliding portion;

a locking portion; and

a spring,

wherein said sliding portion and locking portion abut each other within said housing and wherein said spring is located in said sliding portion and extends from said sliding portion to the shank of the wrench.

8. The locking assembly according to claim 7 wherein said sliding portion allows the shank of the wrench to slide freely therethrough the locking assembly.

9. The locking assembly according to claim 7 wherein said locking portion matingly engages the shank of the wrench in a locked position.

10. The locking assembly according to claim 9 wherein said locking portion and the shank of the wrench have straight ridges for matingly engaging each other.

11. The locking assembly according to claim 7 wherein said spring biases the locking assembly to a position where the shank is locked in place.

12. The locking assembly according claim 7 wherein the default position of the locking assembly is in the locked position, whereby the shank of the wrench is in a mating relationship with said locking portion.

13. An adjustable pipe wrench comprising:

a handle having a fixed jaw portion on one end;

a shank having an adjustable jaw portion opposite said fixed jaw portion; and

a locking assembly, wherein said locking assembly comprises:

a housing;

a sliding portion;

a locking portion; and

a spring,

wherein said sliding portion and locking portion abut each other within said housing and wherein said spring is located in said sliding portion and extends from said sliding portion to said shank.